
The Broken Thread

May 1995

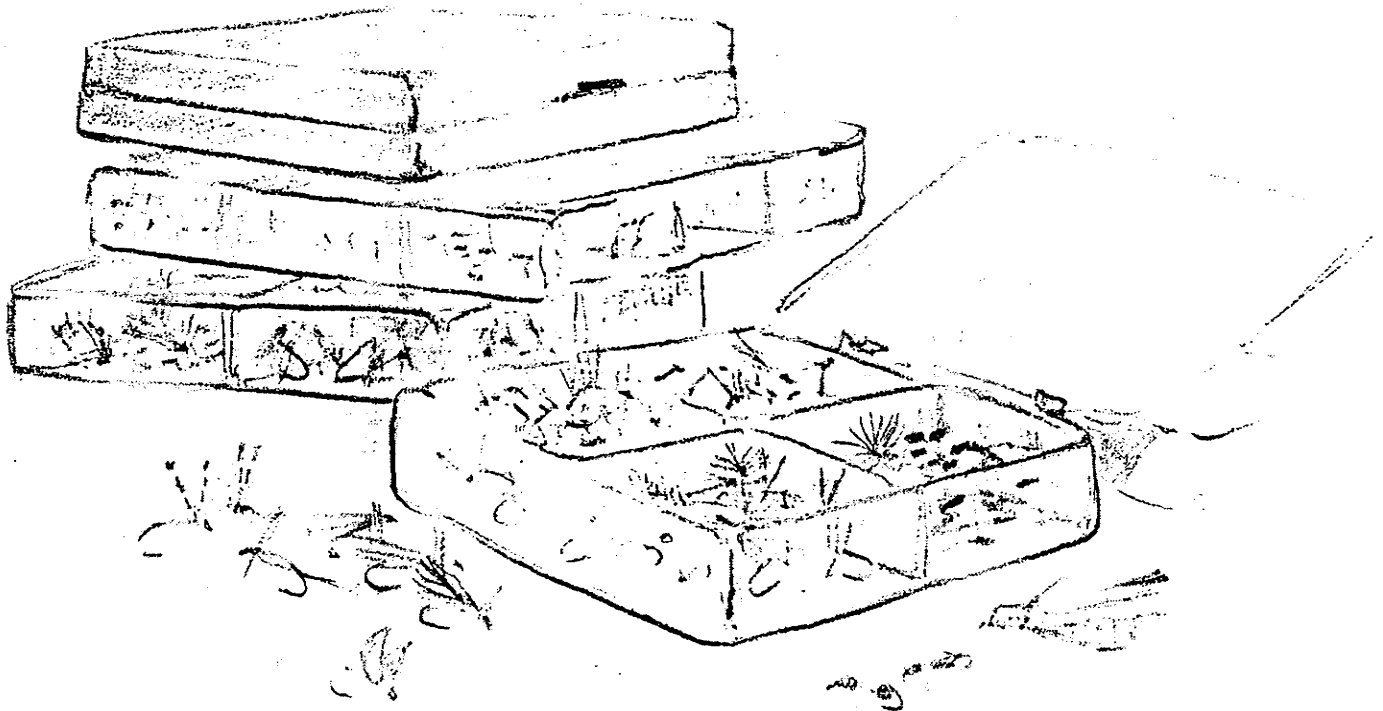
We have the school for the next three Wednesday nights, May 10, 17 & 24.

The 24th will be the last meeting for the year and we will resume meeting again in September. A membership list is attached so that you can keep in touch with the other members over the summer.

Also attached is a letter received from Wally Lutz of Edson which explains a pattern he has developed and tested. I have a few samples from him and will bring them to the next three meetings.

Your membership card will be mailed to you in the next little while.

See you on May 10, tight lines.



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Mr Bill Robertson
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THE BROKEN THREAD
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March 21, 1995

Dear Mr. Robertson;

I appreciate receiving The "Alberta" Broken Thread. My only regret is that I can't be at all the meetings, but hope to get to some eventually. I have documented one of my favourite patterns for your approval and consideration as a contribution to a club meeting. If there are any of the members with a favourite fly and are willing to part with it. I would very much like to see it documented, or maybe just send along a sample.

My contribution fly is called "Smoky May," its inspiration came from several sources: "The Stillborn" patterns by Swisher & Richards, and the "Unfinished Fly," pattern by Vincent Marinaro. Combined here is the unique, life like buoyant tail, of a "Stillborn," with a wing that duplicates the "Unfinished Fly," by creating "light condensers" for a natural surface view. Further research found other authorities referring to the same type of hackle configuration and it's productive abilities. Richard Talleur presents the "Hendrickson V Hackle" fly in his book, *Mastering the Art of Fly Tying*. During construction, this fly has the body dubbing wound through the hackle to separate it into two distinct sides on the thorax, just like Marinaro's fly. Talleur describes it as "a truly convincing fly." Leonard M. Wright Jr. in *Fly-Fishing Heresies*, refers to Vincent Marinaro's fly, and agrees that it "produces a more realistic light pattern, also a more accurate representation of the natural fly's spraddled legs." His pronouncement is "extremely killing especially in the smaller sizes." Randall Kaufmann's new book, *Tying Dry Flies* refers to Marinaro's fly and introduces a fly called "Olive Thorax." Constructed, with the hackle cut out from the bottom of the thorax in an inverted "V," by design the fly "presents a bolder body outline." The "Compara-spinner" found in *Hatches II* by Al Caucci & Bob Nastasi, is also a hackle only fly, that is clipped into shape. Al and Bob's conclusion is; "Through the years we have found that the ovipositing or spent spinners of the various mayfly species usually produce the most reliable rise of trout." *Guide to Aquatic Trout foods*, by Dave Whitlock, our source for "Dave's Fallen Spinner," utilises a hackle trimmed away on top and bottom of the thorax. Whitlock asserts that it is an "improved design." Earnst Schwiebert in his epic *Trout*, analyses several patterns that through construction methods or judicious scissor work clip the hackle from the bottom of the fly. A pattern by Harry Darrby, is mentioned here because he also used the extended feather body in conjunction with clipped hackle. I found the fly in Poul Jorgensen's *Modern Trout Flies and how to tie them*, called "Jorgensen's Hackle spinner." Its tied the same way but with only one feather strip, on top of the body, none on the bottom and no rib. So what I thought was original thinking on my part, only turns out to be another version of a fly that should be in everybody's fly box.

The Smoky May parallels the hackle configuration of each of the mentioned examples; in all of which, it is the hackle construction that is the key to the fly's success. The Smoky is a simulator pattern, as opposed to one that more directly imitates a specific species of ephemeroptera. I have exploited this dry fly for four seasons, and it is now my first choice, Mayfly simulator/spinner pattern. It consistently produces throughout the creek fishing season in my area. The name is the result of several premium days on the "Catch and Release" section of the Little Smoky River, in west central Alberta.

HOOK: Mustad #94840 #16 to #8 and for tying in the inverted position, 94842 #14, #16.

THREAD: match body colour or invisible sewing thread.

TAIL: brown breast feather from a Mallard drake.

RIB: (optional) monofilament or invisible sewing thread

BODY: two slips of brown flank feather, from a cock Chinese Pheasant.

HACKLE: brown.

HEAD: tying thread.

1: Peel the down off the stem of a Mallard breast feather, down to where the dark brown starts. On each side of the stem, pull 1/8 inch of the dark brown barbules back against the stem, (against the grain). In this position attach the feather to the rear of the hook so the part pulled back sits out over the rear of the hook. The extending "V" shaped feather tip requires trimming. Be careful to leave one barbule on each side of the feather stem attached to the rear of the fly, as tails.

2: Place the rib in next; I use invisible sewing thread for this, it also makes great streamer flies, is cheap and comes in 1,500 yard spools.

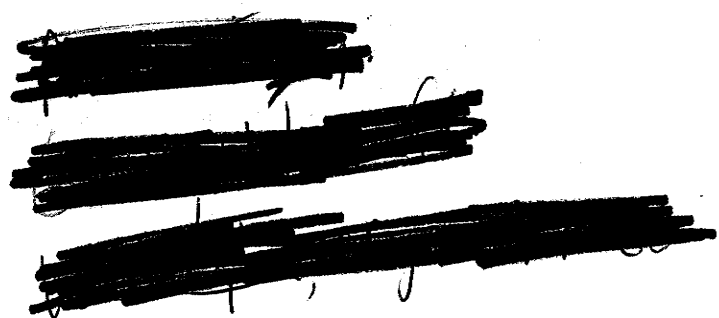
3: Secure the pheasant rump sections to the top and bottom of the hook shank, at the point where the tail meets the hook.

4: Attach a single, dry quality, hackle feather at the mid point of the shank, and wrap it to the head of the fly.

5: Separate the hackles and fold the top slip of pheasant between them to divide them.

Repeat this step with the bottom side of the fly. The fly should now have a very definite separation in the right and left sides of the hackle. Wrap in the rib. Whip finish, turn the fly over in the vice, I like to sharpen it now; seems that if I sharpen it before I usually end up cutting the thread on the sharpened hook.

If you use this fly and find it as effective as I do. I would like to hear of your experiences with it. Also is there anyone with a good Salmon fly(dry)?



Tight lines

Wally H. Lutz